

7 May 1971

DEAR MR. AND MRS. IMLAH,

I had the pleasure and honor of having Jack as one of my platoon commanders during the period January to July 1968 when I commanded Delta Company. I was extremely fortunate to have a lieutenant of Jack's caliber and skill. As you know Delta Company was caught up in the thick of the fighting during the Tet offensive and the recovery of the city of Hue from the NVA.

It was during this hectic period that my admiration of your son commenced, as he continually, day after day, demonstrated the highest qualities of personal courage and leadership in leading his platoon. When he was wounded in the leg during one particularly hot fire fight, I requested that he remain with the company which he unhesitatingly did until the pain was such that he was sent back.

At this time, Jack was the only officer I had left and I needed him. I was very pleased that the wound was minor, and Jack was soon able to rejoin the company. Jack's gallantry in action knew no bounds and even though medals commemorate the deeds, I felt that Jack possessed to an outstanding degree those characteristics

which the youth of today are so desperately in need of and that further recognition of his sacrifice was ~~very~~ appropriate so that his name would be perpetuated by one who is grateful for his heroic actions and personal sacrifice.

Jack stood for the ideals that today are so lacking in those who follow his footsteps. Personal courage and an intense feeling of concern for his fellow Marine, dedication to the principle of freedom for all, and most of all, a willingness to put others first and to commit to God and country the most precious thing a man possesses, his life, so that others may enjoy the freedoms that we all cherish.

The Marine Military Academy is dedicated to preserving our cherished traditions and instilling in its students a strong sense of personal courage to face the realities of life. The ideals that Jack stood for and sacrificed his life for must be preserved if our country is to maintain itself as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

In my humble way I want to preserve the ideals that Jack died for and would hope that the cadets at the Marine Military Academy who are honored by carrying this sword in future years will be

INSTILLED WITH THE SAME SENSE OF PRIDE, COURAGE AND PERSONAL VIRTUES THAT JACK POSSESSED TO SUCH AN OUTSTANDING DEGREE.

I WAS VERY PROUD TO HAVE HAD SUCH AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER AS JACK WITH ME, FOR IT MADE MY JOB MUCH EASIER. AS I HAD LEFT THE COMPANY WHEN JACK RETURNED TO HIS PLATOON, I CAN ONLY SURMISE THAT IT WAS JACK'S UNABASHED LOVE OF HIS MEN THAT CAUSED HIM TO AGAIN ACCEPT THE AWESOME CHALLENGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADING ~~AN~~ A MARINE RIFLE PLATOON IN COMBAT THAT LED TO HIS UNTIMELY DEATH.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

Wlyson C Harrington